

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

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CLASSIFICATION

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

CIA/WHSS

SENSITIVE

SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-5

DATE: 24 NOVEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION IN DMZ

REF :

25X1A2g

SOUTH KOREA'S SENIOR SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS,

TOLD THE HEAD OF THE

25X1X6

STRATEGIC RESEARCH CENTER OF YONSEI UNIVERSITY THAT THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE BELIEVED NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION IN THE DMZ WAS DESIGNED TO INFILTRATE AGENTS AND ARMED UNITS INTO THE SOUTH. THE SECRETARY, YU HYOK-IN, SAID HE THOUGHT THIS TOO NARROW AN INTERPRETATION ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO HELP COUNTER POLITICAL UNREST IN SOUTH KOREA.

THE HEAD OF THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH CENTER THOUGH THE TUNNEL-ING WAS DESIGNED TO PLACE THE DMZ UNDER DE FACTO NORTH KOREAN CONTROL PRIOR TO ANY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. YU AGREED TO FORWARD THIS COMMENT TO THE BLUE HOUSE.

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EDITIONS

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YOU THEN STATED THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY HAS KNOWN ABOUT THE NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL PROJECT FOR SOME TIME

25X6D

NOW THAT ONE

25X6D

TUNNEL HAD BEEN FOUND. THE MILITARY INTENDS TO IDENTIFY OTHERS. YOU WAS REFERRING TO THE DISCOVERY OF A NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL BY A SOUTH KOREAN PATROL ON NOVEMBER 14.

IF THE SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY WAS INDEED KNOWN OF THE TUNNEL PROJECT-- IT MAY HAVE ORCHESTRATED THE INCIDENT OF NOVEMBER 14 TO FOCUS THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION ON THE ENEMY TO THE NORTH AND TO REEMPHASIZE THIS THREAT PRIOR TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO KOREA.

25X1X@

BOTH SIDES HAVE MADE EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE DMZ THROUGH AGGRESSIVE PATROLLING AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FORTIFICATIONS IN ADJOINING AREAS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE TUNNELS ARE INTENDED BOTH AS A CHANNEL FOR INFILTRATION INTO THE SOUTH AND AS A MEANS OF EXPANDING NORTH KOREA'S MILITARY INFLUENCE WITHIN THE DMZ ITSELF.

25X1A9a

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: EAP DIV AND NIO

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